

FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

TRIP OF SEPTEMBER 15

The trip had as its announced purpose search for possible fern hybrids in certain swamps north and south of Newton, N. J. On this occasion the Torrey Botanical Club was joined by the American Fern Society, and the joint attendance, numbering 29, came from four or five states.

The Springdale region south of Newton was selected because of the collections made there by Dr. Philip Dowell some thirty years ago. Dr. Dowell had found two hybrids of *Dryopteris Goldiana* at this place—*D. Goldiana* × *marginalis* and *D. Clintoniana* × *Goldiana*. These were referred to in his article in the Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club, Vol. 35, 1908.

More recently Dr. Svenson had found a plant of the asplenioid hybrid, *Asplenium platyneuron* × *Camptosorus rhizophyllum* (Scott's Spleenwort).

The September trip was successful in finding a considerable number of the hybrid, *Dryopteris Goldiana* × *marginalis*; one isolated plant; and another group of thirty or forty plants in a few square yards. The Goldie hybrid with *Clintoniana* was not found on this occasion, but the region is well worth another visit. The swamp was located on the private property of Mr. Augustus Whittingham, to whom we are greatly indebted for permission to visit.

In the afternoon, a large humus swamp north of Newton was located—a place interesting for the way in which humus deposits are being "mined." One or two plants of the hybrid, *Dryopteris Bootii*, were added to the morning's find. The particular piece of swamp visited was very well guarded by a wide moat with a precarious bridge, and barriers of blackberry and catbriar.

In the report which is being published in the American Fern Journal, a complete list of those in attendance is included.

R. C. BENEDICT

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

TRIP THROUGH FORT TRYON PARK, MARCH 28, 1936

Twenty-one members and guests of the Torrey Club took the trip through Fort Tryon Park, commencing at the south

end, just above the 191st Street Station of the Independent Subway. This new park, estimated at from 50 to 60 acres, runs along the high rocky ridge which is the "backbone" of upper Manhattan, overlooking Riverside Drive and the Hudson River to the westward. The park ends at the northern terminus of Riverside Drive, where the latter comes in to Dyckman Street. The land was acquired about five years ago by Mr. John D. Rockefeller who, after having it landscaped, presented it to the City of New York as a park. The landscaping has been carried out in a most expert manner, and this, together with its natural advantages, makes the area without doubt one of the most beautiful parks in the eastern United States. About 1600 kinds of trees, shrubs, and herbs have been planted. In addition to these are a large number of rare trees, planted many years ago, and a wide variety of native trees and shrubs growing mostly near the north end, so that, besides its scenic charm, it contains an unusually comprehensive botanical collection. Furthermore, Fort Tryon itself, which was located at the highest point of the ridge, was an old Revolutionary stronghold.

On this particular Saturday, much of the Swiss Heath, (*Erica carnea*) along the "heather beds" was in flower; *Jasminum nudiflorum*, the Chinese Jasmine, which has been planted high up on rocky cliffs, showed pendent festoons of its flowers which mimic the Forsythia most convincingly with their shade of yellow; the Silver Maples had finished flowering, and the Red Maple buds were just ready to open. *Cornus mas* was just commencing to unfold its yellow flowers.

Among the other trees and shrubs seen were: *Ilex crenata*, *glabra*, and *opaca*, native Hackberries and Sassafras, *Pinus Strobus* and *Paulownia tomentosa*, the two last apparently planted long ago, *Carya cordiformis*, *Prunus avium*, and *Prunus serrulata* varieties (the Japanese Cherries), and *Buxus sempervirens*, the last housed during the winter in a burlap covering.

ARTHUR H. GRAVES